



## CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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Laura Olton, Chair

Susan Morris, Vice Chair

Catherine Mirick

Ellen Korpi

Martha Collins

Fred Bunger

Lise Olney

### Climate Action Committee Project Updates

September 14, 2022

#### Climate Action Plan (CAP) General Communication and Outreach

- Coordinated communications to promoting Chief Pilecki's climate action video message in early August.
- Developed a CivicSend template to distribute back-to-school mobility messaging created by Sustainable Wellesley in coordination with Martha Collins, Catherine Mirick, and Colette Aufranc.
- Submitted (with Lisa Wolf) an Expression of Interest form for an MAPC Climate Resilience grant to fund a home battery pilot. Met with MAPC to discuss the full grant application.
- Worked with Janet Mosley and Mike Thompson to develop the CAP dashboard.
- Presented to NRC on August 18 with Susan Morris and Laura Olton. Engaged in discussion about NRC CAP implementation prior the NRC's retreat.
- Met with Lisa Moore to discuss CAC/NRC coordination.
- Planned for early November Green Collaborative meeting.
- Met with schools twice about STEAM Week/Month
- Worked on community organization outreach inviting them to share our messaging with members and join the Green Collaborative. ..
- Marybeth met with Jhana Wallace from the Health Department to discuss Health/CAC collaborations re: CAP implementation. Jhana is happy to help increase our climate-health messaging and to co-sponsor future events such as a Green Collaborative focused on climate and health.
- An intern is updating the CAP list of community organizations. Marybeth will use this list to connect with organizations in August/September.
- Marybeth edited a Department of Public Works press release regarding the DPW's new water meter portal.
- Climate change in the news:
  - <https://www.wbur.org/news/2022/07/22/massachusetts-climate-bill-baker-desk>
  - <https://www.nbc.com/meet-the-press/video/full-gore-us-must-look-to-its-broken-democracy-to-fix-climate-crisis/NBCN657989534>

### **Green Communities**

Wellesley received a grant for \$200,000 for municipal energy efficiency projects from the Department of Energy Resources. The projects and amounts covered by this grant are listed below.

- \$60,000 – Air source heat pumps at Wellesley Ave. water treatment plant (WTP)
- \$60,000 – Air source heat pumps at Morses WTP
- \$60,000 – Air source heat pumps at Longfellow WTP
- \$10,000 – LED lighting in the Department of Public Works' Water and Sewer garage
- \$10,000 – Two hybrid electric police cruisers

DPW has asked Wright-Pierce, an engineering firm, to propose several options for ventilating and heating the WTP buildings, including a water to water heat pump. Once the best alternative is selected, Wright-Pierce will develop system specifications that DPW will use to put out an RFP.

Janet is currently receiving FY22 data from several Town departments for the Green Communities Annual Report.

Marybeth submitted comments to DOER regarding its proposed Climate Leader Program. Marybeth submitted these comments via an on-line form and they were not available for download after submission.

### **Buildings**

*From Fred Bunger:*

#### **Buildings Working Group (BWG) of CAP**

Update of BWG activity using CAP action items as a guide:

##### **B1 Regulatory:**

- Fred gave testimony at DOER's August 8<sup>th</sup> public hearing about the updated stretch code and specialized opt-in stretch code. Following DOER progress on finalizing stretch codes. Expected final in December 2022
- Work with CAC to prepare Annual Town Meeting (ATM) warrant for opt-in Stretch Code
- Assist Planning Board in sustainability amendments to PSI or Design Review process and Large House Review. Target Spring TM

##### **B2 Promote net zero**

- Develop contacts with HVAC and building contractors to educate on cold-climate heat pumps and changes in Wellesley permit requirements. Reviewing Building Department database to assemble list of contractors and contacts.

##### **B3 Municipal Action**

- Discussed how to get Police Station audit back on track
- Support FMD plan for building upgrades

##### **B4 Residential conversion**

- Support WMLP incentive programs

- Consider developing “case studies” of home energy upgrade and electrification using Building Department database. Publish a series of climate action suggestions in WMLP monthly bill mailing
- Work on building energy efficiency education for realtors and other specific groups

#### B5 Commercial/Institutional

- Align BETR with H5060, plan Sept 28 Roundtable, maintain dialog with large building owners.
- Help WMLP meet H5060 requirements
- Continue pushing for adoption of PACE
- Continue collaboration with Colleges and schools

#### **Buildings Energy Tracking and Reporting (BETR) and Building Energy Roundtable**

- Janet is following up with building managers regarding BETR program questions as needed.
- The next roundtable is scheduled for September 28. Fred is assisting Janet in developing the Roundtable agenda and presentation.

#### **Zero Carbon MA**

Attended webinar on *Municipal Climate Empowerment Plan (MCEP)* presented by Zero Carbon MA, a group seeking home rule authority to take municipal actions to meet climate targets in addition to the restriction on natural gas infrastructure in the 10 Community Pilot in H5060.

They are proposing 6 potential articles: Climate Preservation 1-3% property tax, gasoline vehicle excise surcharge, electrification betterment loans, green zoning beyond state requirements, community choice aggregation expansion, green utilities bill surcharging emissions and leasing heat pumps.

#### **Better Buildings Deep Energy Retrofit Case Study**

Attended August 9<sup>th</sup> webinar on University of California, Irvine experience in achieving net zero in campus retrofits.

#### **Dispelling Passive House Myths**

Attended August 11<sup>th</sup> Charles River Chamber webinar that provided excellent information on the cost and energy effectiveness of passive house design, particularly for multifamily construction.

#### **Buildings Data**

*From Janet and Marybeth:*

- Janet located building permit data in spreadsheet format on the Town of Wellesley website, but will also be requesting additional data from Michael Grant to identify HVAC contractors and gather contact information.
- Ellen Korpi reached out again to Assessor's to request a meeting to discuss data collaborations and PACE program.

#### **Opt-in Stretch Code Advocacy**

Marybeth, Janet, Fred and Lise submitted a letter responding to DOER's Opt-in Stretch Code proposal.

## **156 Weston Road**

The Select Board owns a house at 156 Weston Road and will renovate this home to rent as affordable or moderate-income housing. Marybeth is coordinating a decarbonization audit and two videos about the home's audit and renovation. These videos will serve as promotional and educational vehicles for CAC and MLP.

## **Mobility**

*From Martha Collins:*

The MLP, CAC and Sustainable Wellesley are working on hosting the next EV test drive & showcase event, slated for Sunday October 16 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. MassBay is confirmed for that day and time, and we are beginning outreach to confirm dealer and Wellesley EV owner participation.

*From Marybeth:*

Martha and Marybeth are drafting an EV First Policy for Wellesley to share with the CAC and stakeholders across the municipality for feedback.

*From Janet:*

Janet met with the Treasurer's Office on August 24 to discuss how best to get excise tax data, needed to identify electric vehicles (EVs) registered in Wellesley, on a regular basis. Janet is waiting to hear from the Treasurer's Office on what data formats are available. This data will help the CAC track progress towards the town's EV adoption goals, assist the MLP in load management, and help with targeted outreach and engagement.

## **Gas Transition**

*From Lise Olney:*

### ***Upcoming event: HEET Charette for municipalities on networked geothermal Tuesday, October 18, 2 - 4pm***

This workshop is aimed at helping cities and towns think about how to make the transition to networked geothermal. Topics will include where to find financing, how to select sites, how to look at designers and installers. HEET plans to create a consortium of towns that want to move forward with next steps. Registration will open shortly.

### **Gas Leaks Allies Meetings Updates:**

- New name: At the annual retreat of the Gas Leaks Allies, the group determined that a new name was required to reflect how the mission has moved away from trying to address gas leaks. The group's focus has shifted to the transition off of gas. The new name for the group is now Gas Transition Allies.
- Legislative progress: The group also reviewed some of the many provisions in the groundbreaking new climate law that relate to the gas transition (many of which the Allies worked on), including:
  - Provisions on DPU/geothermal:
    - Makes networked geothermal and geothermal part of the clean energy definition and eligible for clean energy research grants
    - Outlines data to be collected on networked geothermal pilots (e.g. barriers encountered, number of customers served, costs, number of jobs created).
    - DPU may require development of roadmap to abandon non-cost effective gas infrastructure and replace with non-emitting renewable energy sources; may

- order a third-party evaluation of geothermal pilots within 9 months; may promulgate regulations for gas companies to perform geothermal work.
- Authorizes gas rate decisions to incorporate information about networked geothermal and related technologies, including results of authorized geothermal pilots
- Provisions on DPU:
  - Requires adjudicatory hearing to implement any recommendations from the DPU 20-80 proceedings
  - Requires DPU to examine and approve programs that combine efficiency with renewable energy generation and storage
  - Instructs DPU to disallow spending to promote fossil fuel equipment, except as back up thermal energy source for heat pumps
  - Establishes low and moderate income electrification pilots
  - Adds rules to allow inclusion of renewables and storage for Mass Save to go into effect 2025-2027
- Provisions on Gas Safety Enhancement Program (GSEP):
  - Establishes a working group to evaluate GSEP and report back by July 31, 2023.
  - Defines eligible infrastructure under GSEP to include advanced gas leak repair, and may include utility scale, non-emitting thermal infrastructure such as networked geothermal.
- What's next: The Allies have started to consider the following:
  - What did NOT make it in to the law and what the group's focus should be in the next legislative session.
  - How the Allies might facilitate communications among labor groups, environmental groups, and utilities.

### **3R Working/Waste Group**

*From Sue Morris:*

Marybeth and Sue participated in the Natural Resources Commission meeting to talk about the Climate Action Plan and implementation. Everyone seemed to agree that trees will be an important focus of Wellesley climate action this year. Marybeth and Sue also had a meeting with Dave Cohen, Jeff Azano-Brown and Jamie Manzolini to talk about the Climate Action Plan and implementation relative to Waste and what applies to the DPW. We discussed ways to use municipal buildings to lead by example. We discussed using the Wellesley Police station as a pilot municipal building to implement best practices in terms of sustainability, waste reduction, recycling, etc.

Sue and Marybeth met with Chief Pilecki, Toni Carlson and Carolyn Collins to discuss Wellesley Public Schools STEAM month which will be in October. They are focusing on plastic waste minimization, electricity conservation, and water usage minimization. They are looking for speakers and resources. Sue sent them information about programs Wellesley Green Schools has done including Vampire Energy, Sustainability Challenge, Litterless Lunch, Change is Simple, etc. Sue, Phyllis Therrmann and Michelle Foster met with Matt Foody, an environmental science teacher at Wellesley High School, to discuss ideas about interesting and progressive sustainability lessons for the 3+ sections of environmental science classes. He asked us to lead a class discussion this fall so Sue & Marybeth will likely introduce the Climate Action Plan to the classes. Sue and Phyllis also met with Mindy Hoge who is an Evolutions teacher at Wellesley High School to discuss ideas about a Spring Evolutions program focused on Environmental Justice.

Sue talked to a number of people at Wellesley Public Schools and the Town of Wellesley including Matt Delaney, Jamie Chisum, Drew Kelton and Vivian Wang to discuss the food waste diversion pilot program at WHS last spring and what we learned. We determined that the program as it was in the WHS cafeteria composting food scraps is not sustainable unless there are constant volunteers monitoring the food waste toters and this is not feasible long term. Matt Delaney is working on implementing kitchen food scrap composting and Vaani Kapoor along with the WHS Climate Action Club is going to focus on improving recycling at WHS. Wellesley Middle School is considering restarting the food waste diversion program. It is in the discussion phase right now. We believe these are changes that are sustainable at Wellesley Public Schools and will have additional discussions on implementation.

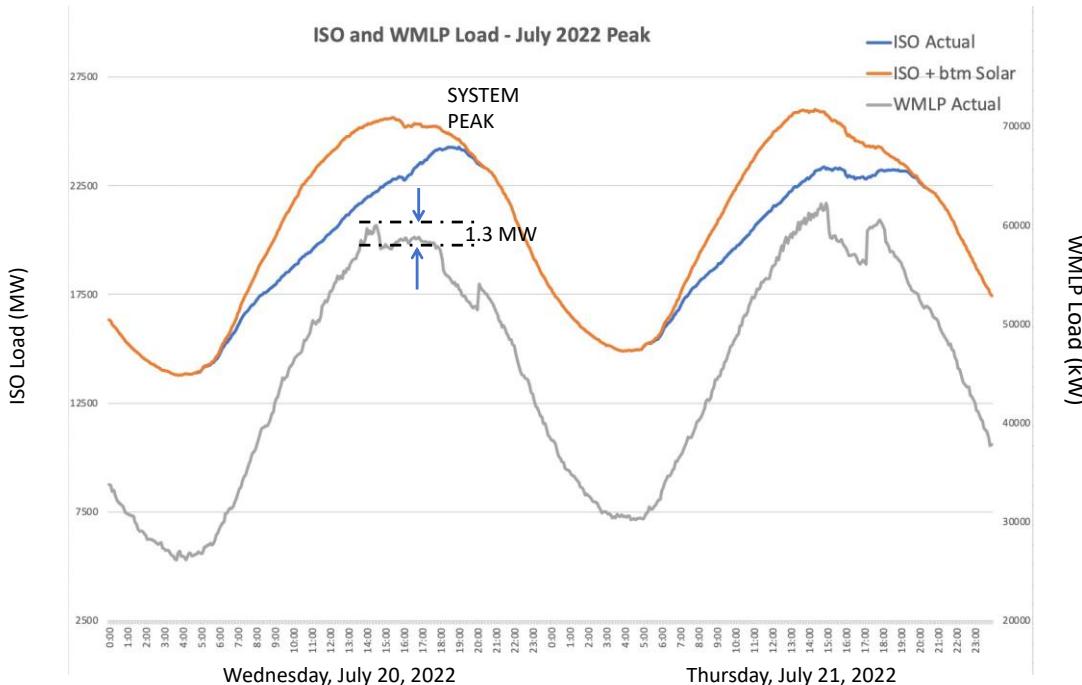
### **Wellesley MLP Sustainability Initiatives**

*From MLP Staff:*

#### **Shave the Peak Alerts**

MLP saw its first summer Peak Event on July 20. Shave the Peak Alerts informing residents about the importance of reducing peak demand and *how-to* tips were sent through multiple channels: WMLP email, Facebook, and Twitter; WPD Facebook and Twitter; Sustainable Wellesley; Town News and Announcements.

Wellesley's peak demand was 60.262 MW (below our average 62.5 MW). MLP now has a target to gauge improvement on, and is gathering data about significant loads at that time to focus our efforts. At 3:00 PM demand dropped by 1,300 kW, 850 kW of which was due to Wellesley College load shedding. The remaining 450 kW can be attributed to voluntary peak shaving. Capacity and transmission savings from this 1.3 MW reduction: \$66,638.



## **Energy Assessments (Audits)**

Center for EcoTechnology (CET) is nearing completion of project start up tasks and ready to launch its whole-home decarbonization program to support and expedite decarbonization of non-gas customer homes in Wellesley. In addition to traditional weatherization, efficiency, and upgraded heating and cooling system recommendations, these energy assessments will include a separate section with a strategic electrification roadmap and a carbon offset summary for any recommended changes. Decarbonization Assessments will be available to oil heat customers beginning Labor Day.

## **Heat Pump Promotions**

In July a heat pump promotional direct mail flyer was sent to 2,000 oil customers directing them to contact Abode (WMLP's Clean Comfort ASHP consultant) to begin the process. Since June 1, Abode has documented 74 consultations and 10 rebates for heat pumps.

On August 23 a survey of oil heat customers was launched, with these goals:

1. promote awareness of the importance of converting from oil to ASHPs and connection to Wellesley's climate action plan;
2. identify obstacles to converting; and
3. direct customers to available resources.

Results will be reported in September.

## **EV School Buses**

The possibility of applying for EPAs Clean School Bus grant program was explored with all stakeholders, concluding that Wellesley Schools are not yet ready to pursue this option due to various budget, contractual, and logistical constraints.

In preparation for potentially revisiting this opportunity, WMLP will enlist ENE's assistance in these preliminary tasks:

1. outline steps for siting a bus depot/charging location;
2. review status of V2G technology; and
3. prepare a rough cost estimate for site preparation and capacity/RNS savings.

## **WECARE Application Criteria**

WMLP prepared a document summarizing options for WECARE spending, and a proposed method for comparing and prioritizing alternatives based on impact on operating income and carbon offset.

## **Large Scale Solar, Battery Storage & Other Projects:**

### ***Wellesley Library:***

The initial Request for Proposals (RFP), made available to over twenty companies for installing solar and battery storage at the Wellesley Free Library, did not generate any proposals. The RFP opening date was July 7, 2022. A few developers indicated that the system was too small for them to pursue but would be willing to provide a response for a system owned by the MLP. The RFP was seeking developers to establish a purchase power agreement with the MLP for purchasing the energy generated by a solar facility expected to be around 139 kW. The MLP requested options to purchase or engage in a capacity payment agreement for the battery storage.

Following the outcome of the RFP and based on the feedback from developers, a second RFP was issued. Responses will be for the cost of installing the solar facility and battery storage, both to be owned by the MLP. A site visit on August 18th was attended by four developers, and proposals are expected on September 2, 2022.

***DPW & MLP Site Solar:***

The staff issued the RFP for this project, and responses are due on September 22, 2022. The RFP is requesting proposals for the installation of solar arrays on the roof of the MLP Garage & Warehouse, the Water & Sewer Garage, and the Parks & Highway building. Additionally, proposals will include solar canopies on two parking areas used by the DPW staff. All the sites combined would produce about 825 kW of solar.

***Municipal Way Battery Storage System:***

All the documents pertaining to this project, Energy Services Agreement, Site Lease, Interconnection, and other exhibits are all in their final stage. The developer requested additional discussion regarding the impact of higher than anticipated equipment costs and is looking to provide additional details about the impact of the new IRA / ITC on the project. Based on equipment lead times, this project would begin construction later in 2023.